



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

Ronald C. Machen Jr.  
United States Attorney

---

## PRESS RELEASE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 28, 2010

**USAO Public Affairs**

(202) 514-6933

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc)

### **Riverdale Park Man Convicted for Attempting to Entice a Minor Over the Internet Sentenced to 20 Years**

**Washington, D.C.** - A 22-year-old Riverdale Park, Maryland man, Brandon Laureys, was convicted by a D.C. federal jury on Thursday, May 27, 2010, for attempting to entice someone he believed was a nine year-old girl over the internet to engage in sexual conduct, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen, Metropolitan Police Department Chief Cathy L. Lanier, and FBI Assistant Director in Charge of the Washington Field Office Shawn Henry today. Laureys was found guilty of Attempted Enticement of a Minor, Travel with the Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Conduct, and committing these offenses while previously required to register as a sex offender. The defendant was immediately sentenced by the Honorable James Robertson, who presided over the trial, to the mandatory minimum of 20 years incarceration.

According to the government's evidence presented at trial, on November 14, 2008, the defendant used the internet to arrange a sexual liaison with a nine year-old girl. Unbeknownst to the defendant, his contact was with an undercover MPD detective, Timothy Palchak. For 30 minutes, the defendant exchanged "instant messages" with the detective over the Internet in an attempt to persuade the detective to allow him to meet the girl for sexual activity. The defendant traveled from Riverdale Park, Maryland, to meet the detective that afternoon in the District of Columbia. When the defendant arrived at the meeting location, he was arrested.

The defendant was previously convicted in 2006 of Enticement of a Minor for using the internet to arrange for what he believed would be a sexual liaison with 12 year-old girl. In that case, the defendant arrived with condoms to meet the girl, who also turned out to be Detective Palchak. As a result of the defendant's 2006 conviction, he was required to register as a sex offender in Maryland.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood and the District of Columbia MPD/FBI Child Exploitation Task Force. In February 2006, the Attorney General created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorney's Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information

about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafecchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafecchildhood.gov).

In announcing the conviction and sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Timothy Palchak, Miguel Miranda, Jonathan Andrews, Mornai Hines, and agents of the Washington Field Office Child Exploitation Task Force. He likewise commended U.S. Attorney's Office legal assistants Teesha Tobias and Latoya Wade, as well as Thomas "Ron" Royal and the entire Litigation Support Staff for a great team effort. Lastly, Mr. Machen thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Scharn Robinson, who investigated and indicted the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Julieanne Himmelstein and Amy Zubrensky, who tried the case.

###